

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05390 272315Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SAB-01 ISO-00 L-01 SS-14 PM-03 SP-02
INR-05 EB-04 /041 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 5390

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, ELAB, PN, PQ
SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

1. CARLOS LOPEZ GUEVARA OF THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM
TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TODAY THAT HE WAS IN THE PROCESS
OF PREPARING A COUNTER-DRAFT TO THE DRAFT TREATY DRAWN UP BY
THE U.S. TEAM.

2. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. DRAFT CONTAINED A NUMBER OF THINGS
WHICH WERE NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED AT THE
NEGOTIATING TABLE. THE ONLY EXAMPLE WHICH HE MENTIONED SPEC-
IFICALLY WAS THE METHOD OF CHOOSING THE PANAMANIAN MEMBERS
OF THE DIRECTING BOARD OF THE ENTITY.

3. LOPEZ SAID THAT HIS COUNTER-DRAFT WOULD FOLLOW, TO A
VERY CONSIDERABLE DEGREE, THE OUTLINE OF THE U.S. DRAFT,
THOUGH HE WANTED TO DO SOME "REARRANGING". HE SAID THAT,
IN HIS VIEW, THE EXCHANGE OF DRAFTS AT THIS POINT WAS VERY
USEFUL AND COULD REDUCE THE TIME LAG BETWEEN THE CON-
CLUSION OF AN OVERALL CONCEPTUAL AGREEMENT AND SIGNING OF
A FINAL TREATY TO ABOUT A MONTH.

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4. HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY DRAFTED A LABOR ANNEX
FOR INCLUSION WITH THE TREATY. HE DESCRIBED IT AS
"MOSTLY BOILERPLATE" AND AS INCLUDING THE SAME TYPE OF
MATERIAL AS WAS INCLUDED IN THE 1967 DRAFT TREATY. THE
POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID THAT, WHILE HE HAD BEEN OUT
OF TOUCH WITH THE NEGOTIATORS FOR SOME TIME, IT HAD
BEEN HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS MIGHT

NOT BE THINKING IN TERMS OF A LABOR ANNEX AT ALL. LOPEZ
EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE AT THIS AND SAID THAT HE HAD
ASSUMED "ALL ALONG" THAT THERE WOULD BE SUCH AN ANNEX.

5. LOPEZ REPORTED THAT HE HAD ATTENDED A LONG "CABINET
MEETING" WITH TORRIJOS ON THURSDAY AND THAT TORRIJOS
HAD BEEN IN A GOOD MOOD. HE SAID THAT TORRIJOS SAID
THAT EVERYONE SHOULD AVOID OVER-REACTING TO PRESIDENT
CARTER'S YAZOO CITY STATEMENTS ON THE CANAL.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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